Land classified under tribal sub-plan areas

3307. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the 73rd Constitution Amendment, for executing commercial projects in tribal sub-plan areas, permission has to be secured from concerned Gram Panchayats;

(b) if so, the number of occasions when such permissions have been secured with State-wise details thereof since the said amendment has been notified; and

(c) whether projects under public sector subsequently sold off to private entities on commercial basis will also attract provision of such amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Sub-Clause (I) of Clause 4 of the provisions of The Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (No. 40 of 1996) provides as "the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level **shall be consulted** before making the acquisition of land in the Scheduled Areas for development projects and before re-settling or rehabilitating persons affected by such projects in the Scheduled Areas; the actual planning and implementation of the projects in the Scheduled Areas shall be coordinated at the State level."

(b) and (c) Since the provisions of above said Act does not provide seeking of permission from concerned Gram Panchayats for executing commercial projects etc. in tribal sub-plan areas, therefore, the information with reference to the parts (b) and (c) may be treated as NIL.

Providing modern equipments to skilled rural artisans at subsidized rates

3308. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any national policy to provide modern equipments to skilled artisans living in rural areas of the country on subsidized rates;

(b) if so, the details of the equipments distributed in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years, district-wise; and